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F540-753
14 November 1946

TO : SC Washington

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MEB-247

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LTS- 86
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Station: Berlin

Report No: 597/MGB-267

Reference: AB 52

Report Date: 4 November 1946

Source: Weinert

Information Date: Current

Evaluation: B

Date Info Received: 28 October 1946

SUBJECT: WEINERT PROJECT.

1. This is another one in our series of reports describing contacts between AB 52 and the NVD agent Joseph WEINERT. The purpose of these contacts is to enable us to observe the activities of NVD Captain SKURIN. WEINERT was recruited by us with the intention of filling the vacancy on Luisen Strasse caused by the regrettable necessity of liquidating SAVOY. For reference see Raw Intelligence Reports No. 591, 594, and 595. *see also (correction-revised)*

2. WEINERT was met at 1700 hours on Monday, 28 October 1946, at the Steglitz S-Bahn station, a location with considerable traffic at that time of the day. He was motioned, without being spoken to, to follow and was led to a jeep waiting among some particularly dark ruins nearby. He was then blind-folded and driven to the SC house, approximately 8 miles from the station where he was met. Due precautions were taken to confuse source during the drive and he was still blind-folded when led into the darkened house. It was the considered opinion of AB 52 and AB 57 that source could not possibly know the location of the house to which he was taken, except that it was somewhere in the south-western part of the rather large U. S. Sector.

3. Answering our questions WEINERT related that he was born on 16 November 1906, in Jaschkowen, East Prussia. His father, Friedrich, was a school-teacher and is still alive, residing at present in Pantlitz, Mecklenburg. His mother died 20 years ago. Source attended elementary school in Jaschkowen and the humanistic gymnasium in Allenstein, East Prussia, between 1919 and 1927. Following his graduation from high school source intended to study for a degree in science, and entered the University at Konigsberg. Later he became interested in theology and transferred in 1929 to the University of Heidelberg, where he studied evangelical theology and philosophy. In 1933 source came to the University of Berlin. He joined the Nazi Party on 1 May 1933. His studies were completed in February 1934, when he graduated with degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In addition to his regular studies, source took considerable music instruction and considered himself an accomplished pianist. Following his graduation, source obtained a position as music critic with the Magdeburger Zeitung, Magdeburg. He continued in this position until the outbreak of the war when he joined the Army and was assigned to Signal

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Report No. 592/HGB-267 (Cont'd).

Replacement Company No. 13, Hannover. Source served as signalman in Belgium and France and was returned to Germany in 1941 to attend Officers Training School. His course was interrupted by the outbreak of war with Russia and source was sent to the Eastern Front with the rank of Unteroffizier (Sgt). Source was wounded in August 1943 in the fights around Stalingrad and sent to the Zone of the Interior where he was commissioned as Lieutenant in October 1943. His first assignment as officer was at the signal school No. 82 in Hannover where he stayed till May 1944. At that time source volunteered to be sent back to the front, but was instead, because of his literary background, transferred to the OKW and assigned to the staff of Major General REINECKE, in charge of National Socialistic indoctrination of Wehrmacht personnel. Duty assigned to source was compiling of news items which were to be published daily in short newspaper form for the information of all personnel on duty with the OKW. In this capacity source attended the press conferences regularly at the Ministry of Propaganda and became, in fact, sometimes liaison officer between General REINECKE and Propaganda Minister GOEBBELS. This activity continued until the end of the war. Source participated in the last fights for the defense of Berlin and was captured by the Russian forces on 2 May 1945.

4. Following his capture source was taken to a PW camp near Ruedersdorf where he was interrogated by several officers. Only one of these officers has source seen since: Captain SKURIN. From Ruedersdorf source was transferred on 15 August 1945 to Berliner Strasse 24, Berlin-Pankow, where he was interrogated in great detail about his activity at the OKW. On 31 August 1945 source was transferred to the building of the MVD in Weissensee-Berlin, where he stayed till 31 October 1945. He was released after he agreed to work for Captain SKURIN in the capacity of an agent. While at Weissensee source made the acquaintance of Dr. KERNITZ with whom he formed a friendship, arising largely out of their similar situation rather than mutual sympathy, which continued to date.

5. Following his release from confinement, source was given the code-name "CARDIFF" by Captain Skurin and was assigned the task of locating individuals of interest to SKURIN's office. This activity continued until to date. In the meantime, however, source was assigned other tasks as well. The most interesting was his four-weeks tenure at the offices of the Soviet News Bureau, where he obtained a position through the facilities of the MVD. While working as associate editor he was supposed to uncover alleged penetration of the SNE by British or U. S. intelligence services. Before this could be accomplished, however, source's coworkers recognized him as a former Nazi and he was immediately dismissed. Source has also traveled widely in the Russian Zone and informed SKURIN about the mood of the population. Source's version of his activities for SKURIN fitted exactly with what SAVOY had been telling us over a period of months on same subject. (Source related his work for SKURIN in considerable

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detail, but it did not contain any information which we did not already have through the courtesy of SAVOY. We will not repeat it here.) Source was able to identify the following agents of SKURIN, in addition to KEMRITZ: SCHWANITKE, former Abwehr, already known to us from ZIGZAG reports. Frl. Katherine OXLEITNER, Boucher Strasse 32, Treptow, a former secretary of the Propaganda Ministry. CW

6. Source is financially dependent on Captain SKURIN from whom he receives between 250 and 400 marks monthly. He has been given a number I Food Ration Card and SKURIN helped him obtain a very suitable lodging at 27-28 Charlottenburger Strasse, Weissensee. He has also been promised assistance should he get into trouble with German authorities because of his war-time role as NS propaganda officer. According to source no other help has ever been given or offered him by the Russians. Source stated that the Russians keep his correspondence under constant supervision and that even registered letters sent him were 4-5 days late in arriving, or sometimes did not arrive at all. He requested our assistance in sending letters to his wife, Barbara WEINERT, Jaegerstrasse 14, Schwelm bei Wuppertal (British Zone). CW

7. Source still did not suspect that his arrest on the 24th was due to Dr. KEMRITZ and did, in fact, try to persuade us to recruit KEMRITZ as a double agent. SKURIN did not yet return from his trip in the provinces and source felt considerably more assured than during our last meeting. He was most cooperative and it was fairly obvious that source now viewed our association as a potentially most profitable venture. After the interrogation, which lasted about 2 hours, source was again blind-folded and driven to an S-Bahn station which was a considerable distance away from the SC house. The next meeting will take place at 1700 hours on Wednesday, 30 November 1946, Steglitz S-Bahn Station.

COMMENT:

1. XYZ form on source is under preparation. Request that preliminary vetting be started on basis of this report. A psychological evaluation of source will be submitted shortly.

2. It is our opinion that the "doubling" of source has been successfully accomplished. We were greatly helped by the fact that during the critical time Captain SKURIN was out of town, thereby giving source considerably greater feeling of security.

3. The assistance SAVOY rendered was of greatest value in accomplishing our objective. In fact, it was the outstanding single factor which enabled us to double a relatively higher-level full time Soviet agent. This should be remembered in our further dealings with Savoy.